

# James A. Garfield

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Historic Site  
Ohio



## Mourning Crape on the home of President and Mrs. Garfield

The home of President and Mrs. Garfield is draped in black in remembrance of the President's untimely death on September 19, 1881, at age 49.

At a time when the dead were laid out in the parlor of the family home, it was the practice to drape all the mirrors and windows of the house with black crepe.

Professional "funeral" operators prepared for this ahead of time when some was nearing death's door.

After the death of the President, the White House was draped in mourning, as seen below.



The *Willoughby (Ohio) Independent*, reported that the entire community surrounding the President's Mentor home was covered in black mourning drape.

In the nineteenth century, it was common for men and women to wear some form of mourning dress for up to a year following the death of a loved one.

Women often wore black dresses throughout this period of time.

Black arm bands, hat bands, and badges frequently adorned men's coats and hats. To the right is an example of a mourning badge for President Garfield.

